

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1188

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: SENAT-GDR TALKS: NO PROGRESS ON RESCUE MEASURES
ON BORDER

REF: BERLIN 1013

1. SUMMARY: AT JULY 4 SENAT-GDR MEETING ON RESCUE MEASURES
AT SECTOR BOUNDARY, GDR REP TABLED FORMAL AGREEMENT CONCEDING
MINIMUM OF SENAT DEMANDS WHILE IMPOSING OBLIGATION ONE
SENAT TO UNDERTAKE SERIES OF MEASURES ON WEST BERLIN SIDE
OF WATERWAYS IN QUESTION TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS. SENAT
CONSIDERING COUNTERDRAFT, BUT NO EARLY AGREEMENT FORESEEN.
END SUMMARY.

2. SENAT-GDR TALKS ON RESCUE MEASURES ALONG
BORDER RAN INTO IMPASSE AT THIRD MEETING JULY 4 WHEN
GDR REP CONDITIONED FURTHER PROGRESS ON SENAT-' WILLINGNESS
TO TAKE SUCH MEASURES ON WEST BERLIN SIDE TO PREVENT
ACCIDENTS AS INSTALLATION OF LIGHTING FIXTURES, REMOVAL
OF DEAD TREES AND UNDERBRUSH, EMPLACEMENT OF WARNING
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SIGNS, IMPOSITION OF BAN ON FISHING, SWIMMING, PLAYING

BY CHILDREN, AND ASSEMBLY OF GROUPS OF PEOPLE. GDR REP SAID, GDR MUST BE ASSURED THAT SENAT WILL DO ITS BEST TO ENSURE MAXIMUM OF SECURITY ON ITS SIDE OF "BORDER" AND NOTED CONCERN OF HIS AUTHORITIES THAT RESCUE OPERATIONS COULD TURN INTO OPPORTUNITIES FOR "BORDER PROVOCATIONS" UNLESS SENAT WAS PREPARED TO COMMIT ITSELF IN AGREEMENT OR IN SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL TO TAKING MEASURES THAT, IN GDR VIEW, WOULD RELAX TENSION ALONG BORDER. SENAT REP SAID SENAT WOULD NOT ERECT AND MAINTAIN "BORDER SECURITY FACILITIES" (GDR-ESE FOR WALL), BUT TOOK NOTE OF IMPORTANCE WHICH GDR ATTACHED TO THIS POINT. MEETING ENDED WITH RUN-THROUGH OF DRAFT AGREEMENT ON RESCUE OPERATIONS TABLED BY GDR REP.

3. MIDWAY IN MEETING GDR REP TABLED DRAFT AGREEMENT IN TREATY FORM WHICH TWO SIDES PROCEEDED TO COMMENT ON ARTICLE BY ARTICLE. SENAT REP (ANNUSSEK) TOOK EXCEPTION TO FREQUENT REFERENCES TO "BORDER" WITH GDR AND IN GENERAL SOUGHT TO BROADEN CONDITIONS AND PHYSICAL AREA OF APPLICATION OF AGREEMENT. HE ALSO NOTED FAILURE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SENAT DESIRE FOR "HOT LINE" TO REPORT INCIDENTS. GDR REP (MUELLER) INDICATED MUCH COULD BE LEFT TO SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT, AND SUGGESTED LINKAGE TO GDR DEMAND FOR AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS AFFECTING WATERWAYS.

4. ACCORDING TO HEAD OF CHANCELLERY HERZ, EARLY AGREEMENT IN UNLIKELY. HE SAID SENAT NOW THINKING OF TABLING OWN COUNTERDRAFT, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER SENAT IS PREPARED, AS HERZ PREVIOUSLY INDICATED (REFTEL), TO BREAK OFF TALKS IF SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT NOT POSSIBLE. BORG

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